

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6740

BILL NUMBER: SB 353

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 1, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Office of the Child Advocate.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lanane

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes: (1) the Office of the Child Advocate; and (2) the duties of the child advocate, which include taking all possible action to ensure the legal, civil, and special rights of children. It requires the Governor to appoint the Child Advocate. The bill also requires the Child Advocate to submit an annual report.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill will increase state expenditures to provide a salary to the Child Advocate selected by the Governor. This annual salary is set by the Governor and requires approval by the State Budget Agency (SBA). Actual salary will depend on the qualifications of the Child Advocate, the salary set by the Governor, and what SBA approves. This will increase state expenditures on payroll beginning in FY 2009. The legislation also requires the Child Advocate to advertise the services of the Office to the general public.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Background Information: An Internet job database reveals the average salary of a child advocate to be \$32,000 for the state of Indiana. A search of the Indiana Job Bank did not yield any results for child

advocates, nor did a search of federal child advocate positions in Indiana which would have a comparable compensation rate.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Office of the Governor; State Budget Agency; Office of the Child Advocate.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: <http://www.indeed.com/salary?q1=Child+Advocate&11=Indiana>

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.